

**PROGRAM FEE REQUEST**

University: **University of Arizona**

College/School: **College of Science**

Department: **Geosciences**

Program: **BS, Geosciences**

Circle one: **Graduate**

**Undergraduate**

Circle one: **Upper Division**

**Lower Division**

**Both**

**New**      \$150/semester  
(Proposed)      Fall 2014.....  
(Effective Date)

**Existing**      \$.....0.....      \$.....0.....      .....na.....  
(Proposed)      (Current)      (Year Approved)

**Program will be offered through:**     Main Campus     Outreach College     Both

**Proposed fee to be applied as:**     Per Term     Per Session/Module     Per Unit

**Rationale for Request (~100 words)**

Our undergraduate majors have increased nearly 400% in the last six years (225 students this year) and we have insufficient staff to provide face-to-face curricular, program, and career advising for our undergraduate students. We request a program fee to pay for 1) a part-time advising staff member who can also help identify internship opportunities, and 2) a TA to support student mentorship in our writing intensive course. Our students would benefit immensely from one-on-one advising from a staff member familiar with the detailed program requirements and field camp, internship, and career opportunities in Geosciences, thereby increasing earnings potential for our graduates.

**Compliance with Board Guidelines (~250 words)**

Ten percent of the fee revenue will be set aside for Institutional Administration, and 14% will be set aside for financial aid for students with need. This program fee will be charged as \$150/semester for the 225 students enrolled in the Geosciences undergraduate major.

The complex interdisciplinary curricular requirements and diverse (degree-required) research experience and internship needs of students requires a knowledgeable and well-trained advisor to effectively guide our majors through the program and beyond. Working together with other faculty and staff, this advisor will provide much value to the education, research, employment, and earning potentials of our graduates. Our students' educational and career potential would be greatly enhanced by a dedicated teaching assistant position in our writing intensive majors course, Geos 302. Aside from our introductory majors course, Geos 302 is the only common required course for all our majors and our optimal opportunity to focus on development of writing skills that are critical for career potential. Teaching writing skills in this, our largest core course, requires time-consuming and intensive one-on-one student interaction from a dedicated instructor and teaching assistant.

**Student Consultation (~100 words)**

Two elected officers of the Society of Earth Science Students (SESS, the UA undergraduate student geology club) expressed strong support for the advisor/fee, and an informal vote in a large (about 50 students) SESS meeting also reflected majority support. With help of the SESS officers we also conducted a survey of undergraduate majors (question and results available upon request). Of 59 responses, 70% of the students felt that one-on-one advising was critical to their success and were willing to pay at least \$100/yr. Combined with the responses from the elected officers and group meeting, we consider \$300/yr a reasonable request for the services provided.

**MARKET PRICING (~200)**

In a survey of five Geosciences-equivalent Departments we consider peer, we were unable to find examples of program fees exactly analogous to the one we propose. However, we did learn that one peer Department (Geological Sciences at UT Austin) charges undergraduate majors differential tuition between \$191 and \$366 higher than other departments including Natural Sciences, Education, Communications, and Liberal Arts.

Resident		Tuition & Fees	FY 2015 Projected Tuition & Fees @ 2%	Requested Fee	Total Projected + Fee
1	Pennsylvania State U	16,992	17,332	0	17,332
2	Michigan State U	12,863	13,120	0	13,120
3	U California-Los Angeles	12,697	12,951	0	12,951
4	U Wisconsin-Madison	10,403	10,611	0	10,611
5	<b>The University of Arizona</b>	<b>10,391</b>	<b>10,599</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>10,899</b>
6	U Texas-Austin	9,790	9,986	0	9,986

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Financial Aid Set-Aside Amount: 14%**

**Proposed Annual Revenue**

Program Fee	\$	300
Number of Students	#	225
<b>Total Revenue</b>	=	<b>67,500</b>

**Proposed Annual Expenditures**

Financial Aid Set Aside 14%	\$	9,450
Institutional Administrative Charge 10%		6,750
Institutional and Advising Personnel	\$	51,300
Support Staff Expense	\$	0
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	=	<b>67,500</b>